GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4835
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
U.S. SENATORS OBSEREVATION
ABDUL HAMID

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government`s attention has been drawn to the statements of U.S. Senators that there was an urgent need for Pakistan to `address the threat to terrorism and militant religious fundamentalism, both within Pakistan and internationally`;

(b) if so, whether the Senators have also stated that the United States must `continue to become increasingly involved in resolving the dispute over Kashmir`; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. These remarks are part of a statement issued on 18th January 2000 by a group of four US Senators after their trip to South Asia in January 2000.

(c) The statement on terrorism is further evidence of the growing international recognition of the role of Pakistan in sponsoring and supporting terrorism and of the international concern at growing extremism in Pakistan.

It has been Government`s consistent and well-known position that all issues between India and Pakistan must be resolved through bilateral dialogue. During President Clinton`s visit to India, Prime Minister and President Clinton agreed that problems between the countries of the region should be resolved peacefully by the concerned countries themselves. Abjuration of violence and acts of terror are, inter alis, required for facilitating a meaningful dialogue. President Clinton also said that the US will not mediate on Kashmir unless both India and Pakistan ask US to do so.